

THE HUMBLE
PETITION

OF THE INHABI-
TANTS OF THE COVN-
TY OF ESSEX
to His MAJESTY.

WITH
HIS MAJESTIES
Gracious Answer thereunto.

ALSO
The Petition presented by the Inhabitants
of the afore said County to both Houses
of PARLIAMENT.



Printed, by His MAJESTIES Command,
AT OXFORD, January II.

By LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer
to the Vniversity. 1642.

1



TO THE KING'S
MOST EXCELLENT
MAJESTY,

The humble Petition of Your MAJESTIES
most Loyall and Obedient Subjects, In-
habitants within the County of ESSEX,
whose names are hereunto Subscribed
and Affixed.

Most gracious Sovereigne,

A *Midst those Royall virtues wherewith it
hath pleased the divine MAJESTY to
fill Your Heart, none hath with greater
Lustre shined, then Your gracious Cle-
mency and compassionate tenderesse of the present Ca-
lamities afflicting Your distressed Subjects in this, and
Your other much lamented Kingdome of Ireland, The
gracious expressions whereof, so often by Your Royall*

Commands published, have given us, Your Ma^{ties} most Loyall and Obedient Subjects, boldnesse, lowly to present the desires and prayers of a most distressed People. We use not sad Clamours with loud Outcries to awake Your Majesty to take notice of our sufferings; We are assured they have made deep impressions in Your pious soule, and called for, yea, and obtained Your Pitty.

The deep sense of these Miseries have prevailed with us to present Our Humble desires unto Your Honourable Houses of Parliament, that they would be pleased to addresse themselves to Your Majesty, with such Propositions as may conduce to an happy Accommodation, and preservation of the true Protestant Religion, as may be for Your Majesties safety and Honour, and the Peace and Prosperity of Your Majesties most humble Subjects. Be pleased then, we humbly begge, favourably to encline Your Eares to Propositions of that nature when presented.

And we shall (as in duty bound) pray &c.



HIS MAJESTY HATH

Expresly Commanded me to signify this

His Answer to this

PETITION.



H A T His Majestie is not more pleased with the Affection and Loyalty of the Petitioners, (so considerable in their quality , and so many in number) then that there is yet so gratefull a Sense of His Majesties Compassion of His People, and so just a Sense of the miseries and calamities of the Kingdom, in a County so subject to the power of some of the great Incendiaries of the Common-wealth , and from whence the Authors of the present distractions have promised themselves such Aid and Assistance to continue the same. What great Paines and Patience His Majesty hath taken and used to prevent and to remove those sad and horrid pressures, cannot be unknowne to many of the Petitioners, and must be to them all, if the extraordinary diligence to suppress all His Majesties Messages, Answers, and Declarations, and to publish the bitter Libells and Invectives against His Majesty and the Peace of the Kingdome , hath not kept them ignorant in things it concerns them so much to know,

His Majesty commends the Wisedome, and discretion of the Petitioners, in addressing themselves in such a manner to His two Houses of Parliament , who are called together by

His Majesties Writ, to consult and Counsell Him for the Peace and Happinesse of the Kingdome, and are intrusted by the Petitioners & the whole Kingdome to no other purpose. And if they shall receive the Petitioners as willingly, and take the Expressions in their Petition as much to heart as His Majesty doth; If they shall discover and punish passed Faults by the Rule of those Lawes which are established, and prevent future mischiefs by preparing new Lawes for His Majesties Consent; If they shall satisfie the Petitioners by making such Propositions to His Majesty, as may conduce to a happy Accommodation and preservation of the true Protestant Religion, as may be for His Majesties Safety and Honour, and for the Peace and Prosperity of His Subjects, His Majesty promises the Petitioners, that He will not only incline to such Propositions, but meet and embrace them with His Soule, as the greatest Blessing God Almighty can bestow on Him.

But if the Petitioners shall find, that any Faction (for it must be a Faction which opposes such just reasonable desires) shall be so prevalent, that the good knowne Lawes of the Land are peremptorily confounded by an arbitrary unlimited Power, in which confusion the Petitioners, and all His other good Subjects, must loose the protection & security of those Lawes; That whilst the Protestant Religion is spoken of and pretended, the memory of the blessed Reformers is slighted and vilified, and the present eminent Professors of it (whose learning and vertue can only stand in the gap against the Papists, and other adversaries to it) are disregarded, scorned and censured; And shall discover the great absence of Charity, Modesty and humility in the chief factors for a Reformation; If no Propositions shall be made to His Majesty, or such as His Majesty for His owne Honour and Safety, and for the security and Peace of His Subjects, must not, cannot consent to. His Majesty hopes that the Petitioners and all His Sub-

jects of *Essex* will looke upon the pressures themselves undergoe, as proceeding from the same Persons who endeavour to oppresse His Majesty, and will with some indignation remember, how unhappily many of them have been made instruments unskilfully to contribute to that Torrent which is now ready to overwhelm them, and will consider that no prevailing or successe of these ill men (who now disturbe the publike Peace) can bring ease and quiet to the Kingdom, but that His Majesty and His Posterity must alwayes endeavour to vindicate themselves from that violence: And then the Petitioners by declaring themselves and joyning with their Neighbours, will be able so farre to assist His Majesty, that in short time both King and People, by enjoying what belongs to them, will be happy one in the other. And the Petitioners shall not find His Majesty more sollicitous for His owne Rights and Safety, then for their Interest and Protection.

FALKLAND.




T O



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
the LORDS and COMMONS NOW
assembled in this present
PARLIAMENT,

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants in the County of ESSEX,
The number of whose Names is hereunto subscribed & annexed.

SHEWETH:

 **H**at we your Petitioners, true members of this *Church* and *State*, being sensible of the present distractions & bloody Miseries wherein this Nation is most unhappily involved, whereby the ruine of our Religion, Estates, Lives and Liberties, is inevitably threatned, in a most unnaturall and unchristian manner; the neereft and dearest relations Plotting and Acting Destruction each to other: Neither is this our so great Misery bounded within our selves, but it extendeth it selfe to our poor Brethren of bleeding *Ireland*, not only to the ruine of their Persons and Estates, but even to the utter extirpation of the *Protestant Religion* it selfe in that miserable Kingdom, by disabling us to afford them that timely ayd and assistance which in truth were due unto the. The tender consideration of the Premises doth enforce us humbly to addresse our selves to the favour and wisdom of this Honourable Court for reliefe; not doubting, but that the Blessing of **GOD** meeting with your grave and timely endeavours, may yet put a period to these our miserable distractions. And to that end, we have addressed our selves by *Petition* to His sacred **M A J E S T Y**.

And therefore doe in all humility begge, you would be pleased seriously to consider of our present and approaching Calamities; and before any more blood be shed, to tender (with all possible convenient speed) unto our gracious SOVERAIGNE, such Propositions for Accommodation, as may be for the preservation of the true Protestant Religion, His Majesties Safety and Honour, the peace and prosperity of all His Subjects.

And we shall pray, &c.

To this Petition were subscribed the names of

Baronets and Knights	— 0020.	Gentlemen and Clergy-men, at the least	0300
Doctors in Divinity	— 0012.	Yeomen and other Inhabitants	— 6230.
Esquires	— 0057.	Sum. Total.	— 6619

The aforesaid Petition was delivered on Wednesday, Jan. 4. 1642.

D
H 3517

51112

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL
IN THE HENRY E. HUNTINGTON
LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY
FOR REFERENCE ONLY.
PERMISSION NECESSARY FOR
REPRODUCTION.